

The Role of Fountains in Expressing Social Status: Late Antique Fountains in Courtyard House Architecture of Asia Minor

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Öz

Çeşmelerin Sosyal Statüyü İfade Etmekteki Rolü: Küçük Asya Avlulu Konut Mimarisinde Geç Antik Çağ Çeşmeleri

Geç Antik Çağ'da aristokratlar ve kent yöneticileri, Roma İmparatorluk dönemindeki uygulamaları hatırlatan, etkileyici mimari ve dekoratif unsurları kentsel konutlarında yaygın olarak kullanma geleneğini sürdürdüler. Bu dönemde, özellikle evlerin en erişilebilir ve en görünür bölümleri, ev sahiplerinin sofistike zevklerini, toplumsal statülerini ve servetlerini gelen ziyaretçileri etkileme amacıyla dikkat çekici bir şekilde süsleniyordu. Bunun için de özel bir mimari tasarım ve süsleme kombinasyonu tercih ediliyordu. Çünkü şehrli bu elit grup, himayeleri altındaki insanları gösterişli konaklarında kabul etmekle kalmıyor aynı zamanda eş konumdaki olan kişilerle olan ilişkilerini kuvvetlendirmek için de ev ortamından istifade ediyordu. Özellikle bu evlerin vazgeçilmez olan avlunun bir ziyaretçinin kabul edildiği ilk alanlardan biri oluşu, bu alanın özenle tasarlanmasına yol açmıştı. Ev ve ev sahibi hakkında edinilen ilk intiba açısından önem arz eden bu mekânın en görünür alanına ise dekoratif özellikleriyle öne çıkan çeşmeler yapılabiliyor-

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du. Söz konusu bu çeşmeler, tıpkı ev içerisinde yer alan hamam ve tuvaletler gibi evlerin standardını yükselten unsurlardı. Kanallar ve temiz su yollarıyla yakın bağlantılı olan bu çeşmeler yalnızca pratik amaçlarla hizmet etmekle kalmıyor, evlerin kalitesini ve değerini yükselten bu su unsurlarının varlığı ev sahibinin yüksek statüsünü gösterecek biçimde teşhir için kullanılıyordu. Bu makale, öncelikle Geç Antik Çağ'ın değişen yapısına bağlı olarak sosyal yaşamdaki değişimin konutlara ve tabii ki konut çeşmelerine yansımalarını ele almakta ve bir çeşme türü olarak avlularda konumlandırılan çeşmelerin temel niteliklerini Küçük Asya'daki ve Akdeniz coğrafyasındaki bir grup Geç Antik Çağ'ın lüks konutu üzerinden tartışmaktadır. Sardis, Aphrodisias, Ksanthos, Arykanda, Side, Perge, Sagalassos, Laodikeia ve Küçük Asya dışındaki kentlerden seçilen şehir içi evleri içeren örneklemede, bu evlerin peristil ve açık avlularında yer alan ve MS 4.-6. yüzyıl aralığına tarihlendirilen çeşmelerin mimari özellikleri, mekân içerisindeki işlevi ve ev sahibi için önemi üzerinde durulmaktadır. Örneklenen çeşmeler hakkında ilgili bölümde verilen kısa betimlemeler, ele alınan çeşmeler hakkında bağlamsal ve mekânsal bir anlayış ortaya koymaktadır. Burada ayrıca çeşmelerin, mimari biçimleri ve dekoratif tasarımıyla elit zümrenin lüks evlerinin vazgeçilmez bir unsuru haline geldiği ve ev sahiplerinin sosyal statülerini görünür kılmak amacıyla bu çeşmeleri nasıl araç olarak kullandıkları ortaya konulması hedeflenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Geç Antik Çağ, Avlu, Peristil, Konut, Su, Çeşme.

Abstract

In Late Antiquity, aristocrats and city administrators continued the tradition of using impressive architectural and decorative elements in their urban residences, reminiscent of the practices in the Roman Empire. During this period, especially the most accessible and visible parts of houses were adorned in a remarkable manner to showcase the sophisticated tastes, social status, and wealth of the homeowners to their visitors. For this purpose, a particular architectural design and ornamentation was preferred because this urban elite group, in addition to hosting people under their patronage in extravagant residences, also took advantage of the domestic environment to strengthen relationships with peers of similar status. The courtyard, an indispensable feature of these residences, served particularly as one of the primary areas for welcoming visitors, thus leading to its meticulous design. This space, which was vital for shaping the initial impression of both the house and its owner, could feature fountains with decorative elements in its most visible area. Similar to the bathrooms and toilets within the house, these fountains were elements that elevated the overall standard of residences. Closely connected to channels and clean waterways, these fountains not only served practical functions but were also used to display the homeowner's high status by enhancing the quality and value of the houses. This article primarily focuses on examining the reflections of social changes in residential structures, especially residential fountains, due to the evolving structure of Late Antiquity. It discusses the fundamental characteristics of "fountains positioned in courtyards" as a type of fountain through a group of luxury residences from Late Antiquity in the regions of Asia Minor and the Mediterranean. Examining a sample of urban houses from Sardis, Aphrodisias, Xanthus, Arykanda, Side, Perge, Sagalassos, and Laodicea, and cities outside Asia Minor, this article emphasises the

architectural features, functions, and significance for homeowners of the fountains dating from the 4th to 6th centuries AD located in the peristyles and open courtyards of these houses. The brief descriptions provided in the relevant section about the sampled fountains offer a contextual and spatial understanding of the fountains under consideration. Additionally, the objective is to elucidate how these fountains turned into an essential element of the luxurious homes of the elite through their architectural styles and decorative designs, and how homeowners used these fountains as instruments to display their social statuses.

Keywords: Late Antiquity, Courtyard, Peristyle, Housing, Water, Fountain.

Introduction

In the vast expanse of territory under the empire's influence, from major centrally located cities to commercially developed port cities or border towns established for defensive purposes, we encounter luxury residences that were built and used with various modifications during the Late Antique Period. These exclusive residences provide testimony to the shifting roles of urban elites in Late Antique urban centres¹. In the Late Antique period, city councils avoided large-budget public investments due to the heavy responsibilities and taxes placed upon the *decuriones* and the overall economic challenges faced by the empire. Consequently, individuals from influential affluent families within cities shifted their focus towards their own residences, which symbolised their political, social, and economic status, while expenditures such as the construction and upkeep of public structures turned into obligatory duties that no longer contributed to their reputation². In other words, with the diminishing importance of urban architecture as a stage for competition among the aristocratic class, residences began to assume a more pivotal role in social and political life, evolving into seats of power for autocratic elites³. These elites, distinguished by their status as landowners rather than their roles in the public sphere, commissioned luxurious residences with peristyle courtyards to showcase their power and wealth. Because in addition to welcoming their *clientes*, those under their patronage, into their extravagant mansions featuring impressive courtyards, this urban elite group also made use of the domestic sphere to strengthen their connections with the people they were engaged in business dealings with⁴. It is worth adding a parenthetical note that during this period, individuals of high rank, such as governors and members of the cler-

1 Late Antiquity is characterised by dynamic changes and transformations in terms of the interconnected contexts of social, political, urban, and architectural aspects. See Brown 2000, 321-346.

2 Liebeschuetz 1999, 6. *Decuriones* responsible for urban administration assumed numerous responsibilities, including tax collection prioritised by the central government, financial services, water supply for the city's general upkeep, maintenance of streets and public buildings, cleaning of streets and sewage systems, procurement of military supplies, control of markets, ensuring agricultural production, food supply, public works, and organising festivals. See Sevinç 2022, 162.

3 Scott 1997, 59.

4 Uytterhoeven 2022, 137.

gy, also commissioned the construction of peristyle luxury residences, which, in terms of design, resembled aristocratic residences, apart from spaces with some functional differences⁵. During the Late Antique era, aristocrats were recognised for serving as both rulers⁶ and religious leaders⁷. Consequently, the peristyle residences inhabited by bishops and administrators were simultaneously considered aristocratic residences⁸.

In fact, the peristyle courtyard, an integral element of Mediterranean residential architecture and a common sight in homes in Pompeii-Herculaneum, had been in use in Asia Minor since the Hellenistic period⁹. It became monumental and widespread in Late Antique period residences belonging to rulers or upper-class families¹⁰.

In these types of houses, a distinctive feature is the central open area and surrounding porticoes. Opposite the central opening confined by a single sloped roof covering the porticoes, there is a square-shaped area reminiscent of the design in Roman atrium houses, featuring on the ground a shallow pool (with a marble floor) similar to an *impluvium* for collecting rainwater. This system facilitated the collection of rainwater from the roof into a cistern (located beneath the peristyle) designed to meet the house's secondary water needs¹¹. In these residences, which became widespread in the early 4th

5 Uytterhoeven 2022, 142.

6 The city and provincial governors, known as *Praefectus Praetorio* and *Praefectus Urbi* of the time, who held the highest political office under the emperor, were always chosen from a noble family. The leading figures of the aristocratic class, considered as the highest-ranking officials, were responsible for cities and held extensive powers in provinces, governing regions on behalf of the emperor. Much like the emperors, these individuals resided in grand and extravagant residences and managed the cities they were responsible for from these residences known as praetoria. These residences, due to the social status of their owners, were always designed with remarkable architectural features and were therefore categorized as upper-class residences. See Lavan 2000, 135-164; Lavan 2001, 39-56.

7 The Late Antique period also revealed the presence of a powerful clergy class within its own social order. Aside from the emperor and the ruling class close to the emperor at the highest point of the social hierarchy, bishops responsible for religious matters emerged as a prominent class, distinguished by their high standard of living. Alongside aristocratic elites, they formed an influential class. As the Christian population rapidly increased throughout the empire, congregations under the oversight of bishops grew in number, and their sphere of influence expanded. It is known that churches under the control of bishops became wealthier from the 4th century AD onwards. In addition to the aid received from the state, churches owned vast lands and had permanent endowments in the form of property within the city. In addition to this, significant amounts of donations were being collected. As a result, bishops, who served as local administrators of increasingly affluent churches, were also individuals managing significant wealth. The growth in the population they held influence over and their roles as administrators of substantial wealth allowed bishops to have a say in the governance of the city in the Late Antique period. Therefore, the residences where these influential and prominent figures lived were designed accordingly and were identified under the name *Episkopeion*, functioning as other representatives of upper-class residences. See Saradi 2006, 105-117; Öztaşkın 2013, 182-184.

8 The insufficiency of archaeological and epigraphic data regarding the examples we have examined leaves questions about the identity of the homeowners unanswered.

9 In Hellenistic house design, the peristyle is a unit surrounded by columned porticoes, connecting the spaces that developed around it with its central position, providing lighting and ventilation for spaces and, most importantly, opening to the outside through the street door. However, the entrance to the house is not directly connected to the peristyle but rather through a *vestibulum* to the courtyard. See Zeyrek 2005, 33-34.

10 Mitchell 1996, 201; Ellis 2004, 38; Uytterhoeven 2022, 132-135; Uytterhoeven – Ricci 2022, 6-7.

11 Research on residential architecture faces a conceptual challenge in defining courtyards as either atriums

century AD and served as significant displays of great wealth, rooms were typically arranged around a square-plan peristyle that resembled imperial palaces and the generously decorated public spaces of Classical and Hellenistic cities, making them considerably more “visible” compared to earlier examples¹². While the peristyle, which constituted the central hub of the house and the main activity area, in many ways served practical purposes as a source of light, water, and fresh air for the house, the columned porticoes provided comfortable and shaded open living and working spaces. Furthermore, the courtyard’s dual role as the architectural centrepiece and a hub of activity made it the most frequently visited area. It also offered a suitable space for the supervision and observation of household routines by the house’s authority, both within and around it¹³.

Around the peristyle courtyard, which hosted various daily routines involving both private and public matters and regulated movement within the house, there were privileged places. During this period, residences were designed to accommodate a range of functions¹⁴ that were formerly performed in public spaces, such as meetings, banquets, personal hygiene, and religious rituals¹⁵. These luxury homes of the era served a dual purpose, functioning not only as the living quarters for the property owner and their family but also playing a crucial role as administrative units within the city¹⁶. Corresponding to the changes in the social and political dynamics of the period, new additions were made to the residences to accommodate the hosting of guests by homeowners and to hold formal or informal receptions. These additions typically included a spacious area, often with an apse, serving as a *triclinia*

or peristyles when it comes to the origin of the *impluvium*. This situation is related to determining whether the Etruscan-originated atrium or the Hellenic-originated peristyle is formative in defining courtyards. The emergence of *impluvium* usage is linked to the alteration of the atrium’s initially closed roof, replaced by the *compluvium*. However, in the courtyards of houses in Delos, there are also basin-like structures similar to *impluviums* from the Hellenistic Period. Based on the examples gathered thus far, there is no concrete information about the origin of this practice, and archaeological data is insufficient for determining the phases of this transition. See Zeyrek 2002, 143-144; Kavas 2012, 143-155.

12 Dickmann 1997, 124-125.

13 Özgenel 2018, 541-545.

14 Mitchell 1996, 201-203; Çonkır 2005, 47.

15 Archaeological findings from excavations carried out up to the present confirm the existence of terracotta tub baths in the residential architecture of Asia Minor during the Hellenistic period. However, after the region became a part of the Roman world, private baths started to be constructed in residences in Asia Minor from the 1st century AD onwards, and during the Imperial period (late 1st century – early 2nd century AD) and the Late Antique period, the private baths attached to residences expanded gradually, evolving from simple, single-room baths to large, multi-room complexes. See Uytterhoeven 2011, 287–329.

16 Sevinç 2022, 48-149. During this period, governors or other local administrators managed their affairs from their own homes. Those in local governance with increased influence over the population had to host larger groups in their homes. From the late 4th century AD onwards, as the number of middle-class administrators decreased, the authority over city management began to consolidate into the hands of a smaller group of individuals. It is understood that the relationships between these high-ranking city administrators and their guests in their homes took on a more formal character. This shift in relationships is reflected in the spatial design, especially the widespread use of reception rooms that ended with an apsidal façade to emphasize the homeowner’s status. See Özataşkın 2017, 60-61.

(dining room)¹⁷ and/or a reception/meeting hall¹⁸. The addition of baths to these homes stands out as one of the remarkable developments of the Late Antique Period building further on the Roman Imperial period¹⁹. The peristyle tradition, which laid the groundwork for the plan design, continued until the 6th century AD²⁰.

The growing power of the aristocrats manifested itself not only in the architectural features of the houses but also in the decoration of the interior spaces. During this period, a noticeable divide started to form between the residences of the lower and middle classes and those owned by the aristocracy. Houses were lavishly decorated to signal to visitors the high social and economic standing of the homeowner. Particularly in the period spanning from the 4th to the early 6th centuries AD, it became common practice to refurbish a desirable property by adorning it through the use of luxury elements such as marble, mosaic, and frescoes²¹. At the same time, fountains, a common element in public architecture and palaces, were introduced into the courtyards of affluent households as decorative features to showcase the grandeur and luxury of the residences²². These fountains, distinguished by their decorative features, must have offered both visitors and homeowners a visual experience that they could appreciate.

Fountains in Open Courtyards/Peristyles of Late Antique Luxury Residences in Asia Minor

All of the residences examined within the scope of this study have at least one central peristyle, or open courtyard²³. In these structures, which mainly represent the upper class and were constructed with extravagance, the refined tastes of elite homeowners are prominently featured. Each of these houses came with a fountain, and some of them also featured water elements such as water reservoirs, wells, or cisterns. These fountains are found in the luxury residences of the Late Antique Period, dating from the 4th to 6th centuries AD, in cities across the Lydia, Caria, Lycia, Pamphylia, Pisidia, and Phrygia regions (Sardis, Aphrodisias, Xanthus, Arycanda, Side, Perge, Saga-

17 The *triclinia* were specifically used for sumptuous feasts given to socially equivalent visitors and/or close friends. These meals, held in the afternoons and evenings, became one of the most significant public events in the local context of the Late Antiquity. Therefore, the *triclinia*, one of the most generously decorated areas of the house, allowed guests to enjoy the splendour of the meals, the ambiance, and the space while bearing witness to the host's wealth and social status. See Ellis 1991, 117-134; Özgenel 2007, 239-281.

18 The rooms located near the entrance and more spacious than the *triclinia* are referred to as meeting rooms. Many of these rooms were designed in the form of a small basilica and the apsidal section of these rooms was where the host received guests for formal meetings. See Ellis 1991, 117-134; Özgenel 2007, 239-281; Özgenel 2018, 541-542.

19 Mitchell 1996, 201-202.

20 Ellis 1988, 565-566; Ellis 1991, 122; Zeyrek 2005, 44.

21 Ratté 2001, 124.

22 Mansel 1978, 254; Zeyrek 2005, 44; Çonkır 2005, 47; Özgenel 2007, 248.

23 In this article, the term "peristyle" is used to describe the open courtyard surrounded by columned porticoes. The term "open courtyard" is used for uncovered courtyards that do not fit the peristyle definition and are not surrounded by porticoes.

lassos, and Laodicea)²⁴. The mentioned fountains are examples consisting of rectangular *piscina*²⁵ located along one side of the peristyle courtyards and open courtyards, and behind them, there are examples featuring niches or flat fountain facades.

The majority of these residences, most of which have been converted from existing residences and feature fountains, have been reorganised to form a distinctive architectural synthesis by combining the characteristics of Hellenistic period peristyle houses and Roman period atrium houses with the emerging trends of Late Antiquity (4th-6th centuries AD). These houses, constructed with a large-scale and integrative architectural approach or extensively renovated, were luxury residences that include representative spaces such as reception and dining halls.

The single example identified in the Lydia region is situated in the capital city of the region, Sardis. The courtyard of the Late Antique residence dating back to the 5th century AD, located south of the colonnaded street (MMS Street), and referred to as the Twelve Room House, is bordered by porticoes on the south and east sides. It is evident that the north-western section of the courtyard, bordered by porticoes on both sides, is open-air²⁶. In the north-west corner of this section, there is a trapezoidal rectangular fountain basin (measuring 1.93 x 1.75 m with a depth of 1.03 m), constructed with profiled marble parapets at a height of 0.68 m²⁷. The courtyard housing the fountain, which features a single doorway providing direct access to the outside in the north, serves as a connecting space for all the rooms of the house. Moreover, it provides access to the *triclinia* (dining room) in the south and the apsidal reception room in the east. While meeting the basic water needs of the house, the fountain simultaneously served as a visual centrepiece in the courtyard for visitors arriving at the house (fig. 1a-d).

The Atrium House in Aphrodisias, one of the wealthiest cities in Caria, features a *piscina*-style fountain added during the 5th century AD renovations and repairs of the house²⁸. This fountain is positioned to the south of the Ionian

24 In this study, a total of eleven fountains from eight cities within six regions in Asia Minor have been compiled. The regions and cities featuring the fountains are presented in a sequence from north to south, considering their proximity to one another. There are specific reasons for the initial exploration of the subject focusing on fountain examples in Southern and Southwest Asia Minor, which also contribute to the narrowing down of the topic. The primary motivation behind this choice is twofold: the examination of neighbouring regions and the immense significance of most residential fountains emerging from cities in these areas for the questions posed and answers sought in this study. Furthermore, the fountains identified in the regions covered by the study are integral to the overall conclusions that will arise regarding residential fountains in Late Antique Asia Minor as a result of the research. Due to the higher number of excavations and surface surveys conducted in these regions compared to others, it has been anticipated that more reliable results could be obtained.

25 This term, generally meaning a pool, predominantly refers to swimming pools, fish ponds, and fountain basins. See Dessales 2013, 58-59.

26 Greenewalt Jr – Rautman 1998, 481-487; Greenewalt Jr – Rautman 2000, 645-655; Rautman 2011, 18-20.

27 The floor of the fountain basin is 0.35 m below the floor level of the north-western section of the courtyard.

28 Lockey 2010, 182-185. For further information on the Atrium House, see Özgenel 2022, 173-174.

columned tetrastyle court, which has a nearly square rectangular plan (12.50 x 11.15 m). In addition, to the west, there is a small trough that appears to have served as a secondary fountain (fig. 2, 4). Located along the main axis of the space designated as an exedra for accommodating visitors, on the front side facing the courtyard of the fountain wall that directly rests on the ground of the southern portico, there are five niches with a straight facade and a round-arch arrangement (each 0.60 m wide, 0.15 m deep) that could have displayed small sculptures. The entire front surface of the fountain wall, which faces the courtyard, is covered with white and grey marble panels aligned with the overall decoration of the house. Positioned in front of the fountain wall, a rectangular *piscina*/basin measuring 0.75x0.45 m with a depth of 0.47 m was built by seating a single-piece of reused marble footing (between two columns on the southern side) on the stylobate that marks the southern boundary of the marble-covered central area of the courtyard (fig. 3a-c).

The most monumental example in the Lycian region is located in the city of Xanthus. In the residence dating back to the 5th century AD on the Lycian Acropolis (Northeast House on the Lycian Acropolis)²⁹, surrounded by porticoes on three sides, there is a large rectangular *piscina* measuring 12.55 x 1.65 m (interior dimensions) on the non-porticoed eastern side of the peristyle courtyard (measuring 23.03 x 17 m), consisting of a three-niched front facade (each 1.10 m wide and 1.24 m in diameter) in the shape of a horseshoe. Situated across from the main entrance of the residence, the fountain served as a visual focal point for visitors entering both the courtyard and the reception room located behind the fountain (fig. 5). The central peristyle courtyard, where the fountain is situated, served as a hub connecting all wings of the residence through porticoes, corridors, and staircases. It provided direct access to several spaces, including two spacious rooms with a commanding view of the courtyard. Both of these large rooms, each with a distinct view of the fountain in the peristyle, led to the adjacent small rooms³⁰. In addition, two decorative water basins adorned both sides of the staircase that connected the peristyle courtyard and the main reception area on the eastern end of the building. Hence, both the fountain and the water basins on either side of the staircase would have contributed to an impressive ambiance along the path that visitors had to follow to reach the apsidal reception room.³¹ Apart from the fountain in the peristyle and the aforementioned water basins, there is a second courtyard in the northwest corner of the house. On the northern edge of this courtyard, there is a small fountain with a shallow basin. Additionally, a cistern is located in the southeast corner of the same courtyard, which offers a view of a large room with two arch openings. The courtyard with the fountain and the private room with a mosaic floor formed a suite, being visually and spatially interconnected. This particular room, along with two smaller rooms, benefited from both the privacy and comfort offered by the exclusive court-

29 Manière-Lévêque 2002, 235-243; Manière-Lévêque 2007, 492.

30 Özgenel 2022, 179.

31 Uytterhoeven 2014, 431-432.

yard as well as the opportunity to access an exclusive fountain in this area³².

Another example from the Lycian region is located in the city of Arycanda. A courtyard enclosed by porticoes on three sides shapes the centre of the Late Antique residence, commonly referred to as the Peristyle House or Pierios House, situated in the southwest of the Late Antique Quarter. The fountain (3.22 x 1.29 m)³³, which consists of a rectangular *piscina* to the north of this courtyard without a portico, exhibits parallels with its Aphrodisias counterpart, both in terms of its position within the peristyle and its construction on the stylobate that demarcates the central area of the courtyard (fig. 6). The initial phase of the Pierios House is dated to the late 3rd-the early 4th century AD. The fountain, on the other hand, must have been added to the peristyle just as it was being enclosed by masonry the spaces between the columns in the peristyle courtyard during the second construction phase of the house (the mid-4th century AD) as part of repairs or alterations³⁴.

At the centre of the rectangular planned courtyard (9.23 x 8.92 m), which constitutes the core of the Peristyle House in the metropolis of Pamphylia Prima, Side, there is a cistern³⁵ that widens downwards in a funnel shape. On the northern edge, there is a rectangular fountain pool (2.16 x 1.10 m in dimensions and 0.92 m deep), composed of profiled limestone slabs in the lower and upper parts (fig. 7, 8a-c, 9). A marble block unearthed during the excavations in the courtyard indicates the presence of a niche with taps on the north wall against which the basin leans³⁶. In the southern portico of the peristyle, there is a small water basin (0.84 x 0.62 m in dimensions and 0.40 m deep) carved from a single piece block connected to the water system.

The central area of the House of Consoles³⁷, situated immediately to the west of the Peristyle House, features two courtyards extending in a north-south direction, divided by two rows of columns. To the northeast of the rectangular second courtyard (this area is measuring 5.50 x 4.80 m) located on the south of the first courtyard, there is a well or cistern with an opening diameter of 0.50 m, and remnants of a fountain basin extend along the southern wall. The southern boundary wall of the second courtyard also functions as the fountain wall, in front of which there is an east-west-oriented platform (4.73 x 1.04 x 0.11 m) that appears to be linked to the fountain basin (fig. 7). It is evident that the fountain basin was formed by placing parapets along the north-long side of the platform facing the courtyard, which is surrounded by the fountain wall to the south and the walls of rooms to the east and west. While the decorative elements belonging to the fountain wall behind the basin have not survived to

32 Özgenel 2022, 179.

33 Bayburtluoğlu 2007, 1-4.

34 For the dating, see also Sevinç 2022, 162.

35 On the mouth of the well/cistern, a cube-shaped well/cistern curb with an orle on its upper and lower edges, which is no longer present in its original location today, was sitting. This cube-shaped curb measured approximately 0.70x0.70 m, with a mouth diameter of 0.45 m. The well/cistern curb in question can be seen in excavation and publication photos from the Mansel period when it was in place. See Mansel 1978, 250, fig. 279.

36 Özgenel 2022, 177.

37 Mansel – Bean – İnan 1956, 15-23; Mansel 1978, 241-249.

the present day, traces on the wall surface suggest that the fountain wall was originally clad with marble plates. The courtyard housing the fountain not only opened to the vestibule on the east side but, at the same time, facilitated entry to the room located in the west, presumably serving as a reception area for visitors.

The Peristyle House and the House of Consoles, which underwent various construction phases and repairs from the Hellenistic Period to the 6th century AD, currently reflect typical features of the Early Byzantine Period. These houses, which saw minimal changes throughout the Roman Period, deteriorated and became ruins by the mid-4th century AD³⁸. However, at a time when the city was entering its last prosperous age in the 5th century AD, these houses were once again inhabited, and they took on their present appearance through the repairs and additions carried out during that period. Fountains must have been added to the courtyards of both houses during this phase³⁹.

In Perge, the metropolis of Pamphylia Secunda located right next to Side, fountains were added to the peristyle courtyards of houses (Houses B and C) during the second construction phase (4th century AD)⁴⁰. In the Residential Area to the east of the city (Late Antique Residences)⁴¹, House B features a rectangular peristyle courtyard (8.58 x 10.46 m) enclosed by porticoes on all four sides, with a well or cistern in the southeastern section and a fountain in the northwestern part. The fountain is positioned in the northwest corner of the 5.12 x 5.45 m marble-covered central area of the peristyle. Rising above the railing slab between two columns on the stylobate that demarcate the northern side of the central area of the peristyle, the fountain wall measures 0.46 m in thickness and features a brick construction. In front of the fountain wall, which consists of two niches with an average rectangular section of 0.42 x 0.30 m and rounded arches, there is a rectangular fountain basin, 0.76 m deep, with dimensions of 1.40 x 3.20 m, oriented in the east-west direction and constructed with marble parapets. The most remarkable feature of this basin is the inclusion of a Latin cross, mounted on an Ionic column capital, which reflects the homeowner's faith, positioned on the right side of the front facade of the basin constructed with marble slabs. Resting on the marble flooring of the courtyard, this fountain basin features two small basins carved from a single block, measuring 0.67 x 0.77 x 0.39 m in the southwest corner and 0.59 x 2.04 x 0.52 m along the eastern edge (fig. 10, 11a-c, 12). To the east of the peristyle courtyard, which constitutes the heart of the house and opens to the north towards the entrance of the house, there is an apsidal reception hall known as the *oecus*, where fountains are also situated. To the west, there is a dining room referred to as a *triclinia*⁴².

38 Mansel 1978, 253-255.

39 According to Mansel, these houses were last inhabited in the 5th to 6th centuries AD. The researcher based this dating on the column bases of the porticoes of the Peristyle House, the unfluted column shafts, "Theodosian Type" Corinthian capitals, the floor mosaics of both houses, and the fountains in their courtyards. See Mansel 1978, 253-255.

40 Zeyrek 2002, 75-84, 178, 195.

41 Abbasoğlu 1995, 108-109; Abbasoğlu 1996, 42; Özgenel 2022, 179-181.

42 For the fountains in this area, see Uzun 2022, 127-131, 258-259.

To the east of the southern portico of the rectangular peristyle (13.40 x 8.40 m) that constitutes the centre of House C located just south of House B, there is a well or cistern with a 0.50 m wide mouth, and in the southeast corner of the central area of the peristyle (7.70 x 3.55 m), there is a fountain wall located between the portico columns. Remains of the fountain basin (3.30 x 1.30 m) resting on the floor of the courtyard can be seen just in front of this wall (fig. 10). The fountain, which serves as a visual focal point for visitors entering from the door to the south of room, located to the southwest of the peristyle courtyard, and proceeding to the dining room⁴³ to the north of the peristyle, is also positioned in such a way that it can be seen from inside all the surrounding rooms of the courtyard.

The only example found in the Pisidia region is situated in the city of Sagalassos. In the northernmost part of the Sagalassos Urban Mansion, on the south side of a rectangular courtyard (11.50 x 6.93 m) extending in a north-south direction, there is a 2.03 x 1.84 m *impluvium*, measuring 0.29 m in depth, and in the northwest corner, there is a fountain with a basin. The fountain is positioned on the western edge in such a way that it is clearly visible from the two-story reception room on the east side of the courtyard. The wall of this fountain has a facade layout with a total of three niches, distributed as two on the west side and one on the north side. At the front of the fountain wall, along the long edge (eastern side) of the basin with dimensions of 2.10 x 1.35 m and a depth of 0.64 m, on the upper edge of the slabs (at the centre on the front side), there is a stone spout with a lion's head relief at the centre, although it is in a considerably damaged condition (fig. 13-14a-c)⁴⁴. Surrounded by spaces of various functions, this courtyard acts as a central hub, facilitating connections between the internal spaces of the complex and their access to the outside, while also connecting the complex's northern wing to the spaces in the south. The Urban Mansion has its earliest phase reaching possibly back to the 2nd century BC, but the primary construction phases are dated to the late 4th and early 5th centuries AD⁴⁵. At this stage, the northern wing of the residence gained a luxurious appearance with the addition of a central courtyard containing a three-niche fountain and various spaces that presented an opulent look with their decorative features.

House No. 1, located in the complex of House A in the Metropolis of Phrygia, Laodicea, with a central peristyle courtyard, features a fountain with a design reminiscent of the fountains in Sardis, Perge, and Side's residences. Similar to the fountain in Perge House B, the fountain located in the centre of the western side of the rectangular peristyle courtyard (directly across from the entrance facade)⁴⁶, surrounded by porticoes on all four sides,

43 A fountain is located in the southeast corner of room, described as a "Tetrastyle Type Oecus" (Dining Room) of House C. The front of this fountain, which is immediately east of the door opening onto the peristyle, consists of a single niche with a semi-circular section (width 0.80 m - depth 0.40 m). For a detailed description, see Uzun 2022, 131-133.

44 It is evident that the overflowing water from the basin flows through the mouth of the lion relief.

45 Uytterhoeven – Martens 2008, 287-288; Uytterhoeven et al. 2013, 373-407; Uytterhoeven et al. 2014, 222.

46 This fountain, located across from the entrance facade to the east of the house, not only served as a vi-

was constructed by closing the space between the portico columns with slabs and installing a rectangular basin (fig. 15) made of marble slabs in front of it (seamlessly aligning with the base of the central area surrounded by porticoes). This courtyard, with direct access from the outside through a south-east-facing hallway, offered passage to all the rooms in the house due to its central location. Excavation records do not contain any information regarding the precise phase when the fountain was incorporated into the peristyle in this house, which evolved through five distinct construction phases from the 1st century AD to the 7th century AD⁴⁷.

Late Antique houses found in the cities of Asia Minor, as well as the Roman Imperial Terrace Houses in Ephesus, the capital of the Asia Province, and the Roman Period houses in the cities of Antioch and Zeugma in the southeast of Asia Minor, are of great importance for understanding the developmental history of residential fountains in Asia Minor⁴⁸. Constructed during the Roman Period (2nd-3rd century AD), these fountains are typically found within peristyles and open courtyards, and their notable design and plan similarities are complemented by shared construction techniques and locations akin to the residential fountains of the Late Antique Era. Within this framework, the fountains found in the peristyle courtyards of opulent Roman Period residences, which began to appear in the 2nd century AD, can be seen as prototypes for the Late Antiquity examples in Asia Minor.

Examples of Courtyard/Peristyle Fountains in Luxury Residences of Late Antiquity in the Mediterranean Basin

The luxurious use of water and decorative fountains was also quite common in residences in many provinces of the empire outside of Asia Minor. Therefore, when making a comparison for Late Antique Period residential fountains in Asia Minor, it would be more accurate to evaluate them from a broader perspective on a Mediterranean scale.⁴⁹

sual focal point for visitors entering both the courtyard and the *triclinia* in the southwest corner of the peristyle; but it is also positioned in such a way that it can be seen from all the rooms surrounding the courtyard.

47 For House A, see Şimşek 2013, 307-319.

48 For further information on the fountains in the Terrace Houses of Ephesus and the Roman Period houses with courtyards in the cities of Antioch and Zeugma, see Uzun 2022, 252-557.

49 Despite the role that residential fountains played in Late Antique Mediterranean societies, fountains have predominantly been studied as a public phenomenon until now. On the other hand, research on residential fountains is rather limited, although the examples of Late Antique residential fountains in the western part of the Empire, notably in Italy, with Ostia as a primary example, are relatively well-documented. Furthermore, some examples in North Africa have also been investigated. On the other hand, foundational research on residential fountains in the eastern part of the Empire, except for examples in Stobi and Apamea, remains substantially incomplete. Therefore, in this section, emphasis is placed on major examples that have been the subject of previous studies on residential fountains. In addition to all this, the fact that the fountains identified in eight cities in Southern and Southwest Asia Minor are situated within the Mediterranean basin and in geographies close to and potentially interacting with residential fountains constructed outside of Asia Minor during the Late Antique period has played a significant role in the selection of these examples. Moreover, examples that allow for analogy have been addressed to enhance the understanding of period fountains and reach a comprehensive conclusion.

Houses from the Late Antique period with fountains in their peristyles are also encountered in the capital of Macedonia Secunda, Stobi, in the peristyle arrangements of the Parthenios House, Peristeria House, and Policharmos House. The Parthenios House. On one side of the peristyle courtyards that formed the center of all three houses, fountains are positioned in a way that can be seen from many rooms, including reception halls, throughout the house. These fountains, distinguished by their decorative features, draw attention with their multi-niche facades reminiscent of fountains adorning the courtyards of Roman-era palaces and monumental public fountains, along with the large-sized *piscina* in front of these facades⁵⁰.

In the case of the Aegean Islands, the situation is quite similar. In the Late Antique residence known as the Late Antique House in Thasos, with a courtyard surrounded by porticoes on all four sides, there is a rectangular *piscina* on the western side of the courtyard and a fountain facade that surrounds it on three sides. Resembling the monumental fountains of the Roman period, the fountain facade features a two-story arrangement composed of double rows of columns. The addition of the fountain to the peristyle of the house took place in the latest construction phase between 500 and 550 AD, while the initial construction phase of the house is dated to between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD⁵¹.

The eastern provinces also mirror this pattern. In these regions, the land-owning aristocracy grew, and wealthy landowners, in line with the region's geographical features, had luxurious peristyle houses built for themselves⁵². Examples where a fountain is located in the peristyle include the House of Consoles and the House of Capitals with Consoles in Apamea, which was the capital of Syria Secunda in the early 5th century AD and experienced a period of prosperity in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. The House of Consoles dates back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries in its first construction phase, with the fountain being added to the peristyle in the 6th century AD. The fountain on the west side of the rectangular peristyle courtyard, surrounded by porticoes on all four sides, was constructed similarly to the examples in Perge. It involved building a wall between the portico columns and adding a rectangular *piscina*⁵³ in front of it (seamlessly aligning with the base of the central area surrounded by porticoes). The fountain's position across from the reception hall (Room AA) mirrors the alignment of the fountain in the tetrastyle court of the Atrium House in Aphrodisias⁵⁴.

The largest house in the city, the House of Capitals with Consoles, features a large reservoir located at the southern end of the rectangular peristyle (Room A). The *piscina*, with dimensions of 4.98 x 2.00 m and a height of 0.72 m on the north side of the reservoir that supplies water to two rectangular *piscinas* on both long sides, is positioned across from the reception hall opening

50 For detailed information on the fountains in these residences, see: Kitzinger 1946, 118-129; Kleinbauer 1979, 362-363; Kolarik 1987, 304; Nikoloska 2015, 87; Gerasimovska 2018, 286-295.

51 Sodini 2011, 1183; Sodini – Kozelj – Wurch-Koželj 2016, 37-121, 137-147.

52 Koçyiğit 2013, 54.

53 7.63 m in length and 2.45 m in width, with a preserved height of 1.20 m.

54 Vannesse 2014, 507.

to the peristyle to the north, aligning with the Atrium House in Aphrodisias. This fountain was added to the structure in the 6th century AD⁵⁵.

Looking beyond Asia Minor, some of the finest examples of aristocratic residential fountains can be found in Italy, which was still the heart of the western half of the empire during this period. Two residences in the port city of Rome, Ostia, feature courtyards with monumental and niche-decorated fountains. The Amor and Psyche House fountain is situated on the eastern facade of a rectangular courtyard that extends in a north-south direction. The fountain, which opens into the courtyard with five horseshoe-shaped niches, features a five-niche fountain facade on the wall behind it, including two rectangular and three semi-circular niches. This decorative fountain is strategically positioned so that it can be seen from all rooms across the courtyard. The structure, which reached its present state through three construction phases from the 2nd century to the 4th century AD, had the fountain added to its courtyard during its final construction phase in the 4th century AD⁵⁶.

During this phase, a fountain was added to the courtyard north of the Nymphaeum House, which was originally built as an *insula* in the 2nd century AD but transformed into a luxury residence around 400 AD. The fountain facade on the north wall of the courtyard consists of seven niches of semi-circular and rectangular sections, with the central niche being the widest. In front of four niches, including the central one, there is a *piscina* that terminates with convex short sides on both ends. This fountain appears to be positioned on the northwest courtyard wall in such a way that it can be seen from both the outdoor dining room in the northeast corner of the courtyard and the apsidal reception room in the southeast⁵⁷.

The House of Amphitrite, located in the city of Djemila (Cuicul) in Algeria, North Africa, consists of spaces adorned with highly magnificent mosaic decorations, and it has a fountain on the western side of the peristyle courtyard, surrounded by porticoes on all four sides. The fountain, positioned across from the entrance opening of the courtyard and in front of the dining room known as *oecus*, was built by constructing a wall (made of brick) between the portico columns, similar to the examples in Perge. In front of this wall (seamlessly aligning with the base of the central area of the courtyard), there is a *piscina* that terminates with a convex shape at both of its short ends added to it. The fountain in the House of Amphitrite, the first construction phase of which is dated from the early 3rd century to the early 4th century AD, was added to the peristyle during the restoration phase in the late 4th century or early 5th century AD⁵⁸.

55 Vannesse 2014, 490, 506-507; Vannesse et al. 2014, 245-254.

56 Van Aken 1951, 283; Neuerburg 1965, 179-180; Heres 1982, 414-42; Muntasser 2003, 204-210; Danner 2017, 199-201.

57 Neuerburg 1965, 186-187; Heres 1982, 472-476; Muntasser 2003, 195-204; Danner 2017, 213-217.

58 Blanchard-Lemée 1975, 107-128.

Evaluation and Conclusion

This article focuses on courtyards serving representative functions as scenes for guest receptions and fountains within those courtyards. All the examples addressed here indicate that the use of fountains in peristyle and open courtyard houses belonging to the wealthy and aristocratic classes in Asia Minor began in the 2nd century AD and became widespread from the 4th to the 6th century AD in the coastal cities of Asia Minor in the Aegean and Mediterranean regions, as well as throughout the entire Mediterranean region. The substantial increase in residential fountains across the empire from the 4th century AD onwards is directly related to the building policies that evolved in response to the political and socio-economic conditions of the period. Funding for the magnificent public fountains in the Roman era typically came from the local aristocracy, which was comprised of wealthy families from ancient cities⁵⁹. The actions carried out by this elite class, which also formed the local council (*curia*) in cities, as part of their responsibilities for the maintenance of the city not only earned them respect in their own and neighbouring cities but also conferred such political advantages as a voice in local governance and engagement in public roles⁶⁰. Thus, these conditions gave rise to a competitive environment among council members (*decuriones*) to achieve status, leading to an increase in the construction of public buildings and civic services in urban areas, such as nymphaea. However, from the 4th century AD onwards, the heavy responsibilities and sanctions imposed on council members led to the aristocratic class distancing themselves from council membership⁶¹; therefore, this upper class shifted their focus towards investments that would bring them more into the spotlight⁶² rather than allocating funds for expenses such as the construction of public buildings, which no longer conferred prestige⁶³. Due to such shifts, the construction of public structures that once bestowed authority and prestige upon their benefactors, such as fountains in cities, gave way to private development. In other words, the prevailing tendency during the Roman period, which manifested itself in public fountains with a concern for representation, found expression in residential fountains in response to the

59 Dorl-Klingenschmid 2001, 119-121; Longfellow 2005, 10-15. For detailed information on the financing of monumental fountains in the Roman period, see Richard 2012, 239-248.

60 Foss 2002, 71.

61 From the 4th century AD onwards, council members were given various new responsibilities, including collecting taxes, organizing the distribution of fees, transporting, and storing taxable goods, paying salaries, and keeping accounts. Failure to perform these duties could result in different forms of penalties for the members. See: Jones 1964, 448-462.

62 A law enacted at the end of the 4th century AD concerning the construction of public buildings stipulated that the name of the emperor, instead of the patron, should be given to a completed public building. A written order sent to the *Praefectus Urbi*, Rufinus, by Emperor Arcadius and Honorius in 394, stated that if any *iudex* were to inscribe his own name on a newly constructed public building instead of the emperor's name, they would be considered guilty of treason. See Cod. Theod. 15.1.31. Quoted in Pharr 1952, 426-427; This order is significant because while it demonstrates that constructing public buildings and having one's name inscribed on them was a matter of prestige for the elite class involved in local governance, it also highlights that emperors were not willing to permit this practice.

63 Ceylan 2016, 544.

changing circumstances of Late Antiquity⁶⁴.

All the similarities outlined through examples from beyond Asia Minor suggest that in different time periods and diverse geographic locations, the ways of life (particularly among the aristocratic elite) exhibited remarkable uniformity. The urban elite began to invest more in their private homes, leading to the emergence of very large aristocratic mansions with rich decorations, resembling examples from other regions of the empire⁶⁵; and the fountains that gave life to these houses continued to be the focal point of interior decoration, due to their specific locations, similar to the Roman period, but on a larger scale. The positioning of fountains, especially in the highly visible sections of courtyards, and the shared features in facade, plan, and basin design as observed in many examples, indicate a tradition that persisted until the 6th century AD. The selection of decorative fountains with similar features in the most accessible and visible parts of houses within the same city, notably in such cities as Side, Perge, Stobi, Ostia, and Apamea, points to the role of social competition among individuals of comparable status.

These Late Antique residential fountains, as will be understood, were located in the opulent residences of cities that served as regional focal points and held the status of metropolises during that era. These upper-class residences under consideration, in contrast to the economic landscape of the period, are extremely luxurious and splendidly designed, symbolising the power of their owners and mirroring the increasingly pronounced class divisions. The prevalence of examples throughout the empire illustrates that the effort to showcase wealth as a means of defining social relationships has instigated a pronounced shift towards opulent interior decoration in private residences during Late Antiquity. This inclination led to the development of a distinct architectural style specific to the aristocratic class, which played a significant role in shaping the residential structures of the time⁶⁶. The concern for representation observed in these buildings, interpreted as an expression of power and prestige, is clearly evident in the deliberate selection of fountains in the house's public spaces, especially in the meticulously adorned peristyle/courtyard. Fountains were intentionally placed in prominent locations in the luxurious homes of the Late Antique Period, adorning not only courtyards but also visible areas such as entranceways, *triclinia*, reception rooms, and the pathways leading to these spaces, with the aim of offering pleasant sights to the arriving guests. Found in houses of the Late Antique period in Sardis, Xanthus, Perge, and Sagalassos in Asia Minor, as well as in Ostia, Stobi, and Djemila (Cuicul) outside of Asia Minor, these fountains are represented by fewer examples when compared to the fountains in peristyles⁶⁷. Such lavish and grand residences, which stand out with their decorative elements in their representative spaces, can be regarded as a highly important phenomenon in shedding light on the socio-economic status of cities and their prominent figures during the Late

64 Uzun 2022, 264.

65 Uytterhoeven 2022, 141.

66 Also see Ellis 1997, 38–50; Özgenel 2022, 185–193; Uytterhoeven 2022, 141–153.

67 For *tricliniums*, reception halls, and fountains in passageways, see Uzun 2022, 257–266.

Antique Period. This is because, for the prosperous people of the Late Antique Era, water was not solely an essential requirement for existence; it was also an element they took pride in exhibiting within an ornate architectural setting as a manifestation of their cultivated tastes. Fountains, which first appeared in villa and palace architecture from the late 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD⁶⁸, became more widespread during the Imperial period and evolved into a fundamental component of peristyle decoration in luxury residences⁶⁹, persisting into the Late Antique period as a significant aspect of the aesthetics in elite residences and contributing to the prestige of homeowners, similar to the role they played in the Roman period. Because in the Late Antique Era, just as it had been in the Roman period, the ability to bring water to one's own property and showcase it through fountains and basins in houses must have been of paramount significance for wealthy individuals to demonstrate their status and power⁷⁰. The desire for fresh water was common, yet it was usually within reach of a select few who held political influence, social status, and wealth. In the Late Antiquity/Early Byzantine Period, as in the Roman Era⁷¹, a considerable segment of the populace did not have the privilege of residential water use; water allocated for private consumption and display was subject to fees and stringent control⁷². During this period, there were numerous bureaucratic impediments in place when it came to connecting a private waterline to the urban distribution networks. From a legal decree introduced in the times of Emperor Theodosius I (379-395 AD) and Valentinian II (375-392 AD), with later reaffirmation during the reigns of Anastasius (491-518 AD) or Justinian (527-565 AD), it is evident that securing the privilege of private water access mandated property owners to obtain consent from the emperor or local authorities⁷³. Therefore, the fountains used in the residences of that period not only indicated that the property owner had a private connection with the urban water distribution network, and sufficient financial and human resources to bring

68 Glaser 2000, 439, 451; Uytterhoeven 2013, 142. Starting from the Early Roman Period and onwards, with the construction of aqueducts and the subsequent increase in public water supply, wealthy homeowners had the opportunity to establish expensive, private connections to city water networks. See Uytterhoeven 2022, 137.

69 Walker 1987, 69.

70 Uytterhoeven 2013, 151; Uytterhoeven 2022, 149.

71 Bruun's research on Roman water pipes (*fistula*) has revealed that there were inscribed stamps on these pipes, providing insights into who might have used the water. According to Bruun's study, in the Roman period, approximately 17% of the water supplied to Rome was for the emperor, 38% was for private individuals, and 45% was provided to the general public. See Bruun 1991, 63. Moreover, it is known that during the Roman period, wealthy private homeowners often formed *consortia*, a type of partnership. This *consortia* would make requests to have a connection from the main water supply line to their homes, with the condition that they would cover the expenses. To measure and bill the amount of water provided to individuals through these connections, small mouths called *calices* were installed. See Kretzschmer 2010, 99-102. Throughout the Roman Empire, obtaining the right to a private water supply required property owners to obtain permission from the emperor or local authorities. According to Frontinus, appointed as the *curator aquarum* in the year 97 AD, if someone wanted to bring water to their property, they first needed to write a letter to the emperor requesting permission. Once their request was approved by the emperor, the individual would then apply to the *curator aquarum* to discuss the financial and technical details. See Rogers 2018, 66; Uzunoglu 2018, 37.

72 Cod. Iust. 11.43.10. Quoted in Blume 2016, 2723.

73 Cod. Iust. 11.43.5; 11.43.11. Quoted in Blume 2016, 2719, 2723.

water to their home but also served as a visible expression of this prestigious privilege in the public areas of the house, namely the peristyle/courtyard, reception, and dining rooms, all of which were visible to visitors⁷⁴. To put it differently, these fountains enabled homeowners to elevate their visibility in the city and satisfy a social need that took precedence over the pragmatic requirements of the residence⁷⁵. In a depiction of Antioch's houses, Libanius, who lived between 314 and 393 AD, provided a description that aligns with our viewpoint: "*Since the number of houses matches the number of fountains, or more precisely, each house boasts numerous fountains, our measure of the abundance of our waters aligns with the count of houses. Essentially, the majority of workshops are decorated in a similar fashion... In our region, where each household possesses a fountain, the fountains flow primarily for display*"⁷⁶. In this context, the inclusion of fountains, particularly in the representative spaces of residences, highlights the direct correlation between the prosperity of the city in which the house was situated and the wealth of the homeowner. Indeed, the fact that many of our examples are found in cities of political, religious, and commercial significance during the Late Antiquity, such as Sardis, Aphrodisias, Xanthus, Arycanda, Side, Perge, Sagalassos, and Laodicea, further supports our view.

Luxurious houses with courtyards, as seen in numerous examples above, such as the Atrium House in Aphrodisias⁷⁷, Peristyle House in Arycanda⁷⁸, Peristyle House and House of Consoles in Side⁷⁹, Late Antique Residences

74 Uytterhoeven 2013, 151; Uytterhoeven 2022, 149.

75 In addition to its primary function, the sound of the water flowing from the fountain spout into the *piscina*/basin must have not only created a pleasant atmosphere, but the light entering through the *compluvium* and reflecting on the water's surface in the pool must have also served as an additional source of light for the rooms during the day. Moreover, these fountains must have been of vital importance for providing cooling, especially during hot summer days, and meeting the daily water needs of the house. Furthermore, the direct connection of the fountains with the cisterns located on one side of the peristyles indicates that the excess water from the fountains played a significant role in satisfying secondary water consumption within the house, in addition to rainwater. Also, given the locations of the fountains in the courtyards and reception/dining areas, it is highly likely that they also served utilitarian functions, such as allowing invited guests to wash their hands before and after meals.

76 Libanius Orat. 11.244-248: ἔξεστι δὲ τὸν μὲν τῶν πηγῶν πλοῦτον τῷ πληθει τῶν οἰκιῶν σκοπεῖν, ὅσαι γὰρ οἰκίαι, τοσαῦται κρήναι, μᾶλλον δὲ καθ' ἐκάστην πολλαί, καὶ τῶν γε ἐργαστηρίων τὰ πολλὰ τούτω φαιδρύνεται... ἡμῖν δὲ διὰ τὸ εἶσω θυρῶν ἑκάστοις εἶναι κρήνην αἱ κοινὰὶ πρὸς ἐπίδειξιν ῥέουσι. Translation taken from Norman 2014; Indeed, the decorative fountains adorning the peristyles of luxury residences in Antioch that were densely inhabited between the 3rd and 5th centuries AD align with this description specific to Antioch, provided by Libanius. Notably, the Menander House, House of the Boat of the Psyches, the House of the Drinking Contest, The House of the Buffet Supper, House of the Red Pavement, and the Constantine Villa, which are among the most luxurious residences in Antioch, feature numerous decorative fountains in their peristyle courtyards. These fountains consist of rectangular or semicircular niches on the fountain facades and numerous decorative fountains with *piscinae*, which are positioned in front of the *impluvium* base, along with a wide variety of mosaic floorings. See Stillwell 1961, 45-57; Levi 1947, 66-69; Dobbins 2000, 51-62; Gruber – Dobbins 2010, 1-75; Barsanti 2012, 25-42.

77 Lockey 2010, 48-49, 182-185, 272-289; Lockey 2016, 247-248.

78 Sevinç 2022, 162.

79 Mansel 1978, 253-255.

in Perge⁸⁰, Urban Mansion in Sagalassos⁸¹, and House No. 1 in Laodicea⁸², did not emerge as entirely new residential structures; instead, they attained their grandeur in the Late Antique Period through extensive renovations or reconfigurations of older residences⁸³. This renovation process often involved the modification and refurbishment of existing structures rather than levelling the terrain or the construction of entirely new residences by removing the old ones. It is evident that during extensive renovations in residences, the buildings were expanded, two or more adjacent residences were merged into a single unit, or vice versa; that the entrances and exits of some places were cancelled, reception and dining rooms (whether apsidal or not) were added where the host entertained guests, both formally and informally; that the decorative programmes of the houses were largely renewed; and that at this stage, fountains were clearly added to the most important public spaces of the house, namely the courtyards. The addition of fountains, especially to courtyards, as seen in many of the examples mentioned above, generally involved constructing a fountain wall between the existing portico columns and adding a rectangular *piscina*/basin in front of it, which would align with the open middle area constituting the centre of the courtyard. In addition to all of this, the residential fountains we are trying to describe have shown that, similar to public buildings in their respective cities, certain factors were considered in the selection of locations for fountains within houses: Similar to monumental fountains positioned prominently in the grand city squares of the Roman era, shaping the core of the urban landscape, these fountains in luxury residences of the Late Antique Period were placed on the central axis of the open-air courtyard, surrounded by porticoes that served as the heart of the house. The portico, on the other hand, much like the columned avenues providing access to public buildings in cities, served the transitional function to the reception and dining rooms, acting as the public space of elite homes. In this regard, when visitors entered the house from the vestibule into the courtyard, they must have immediately seen the decorative fountain, a symbol of the homeowner's wealth, before proceeding to the dining or reception rooms. The focal point of these representative rooms opening onto the courtyard through wide openings and other rooms around the courtyard was often a decorative fountain. In this context, considering both the architectural and decorative features, their placement within the space, and the availability of running water through the private plumbing systems, it is evident that these fountains were an integral part of a sophisticated construction programme aimed at creating a luxurious living space.

Visually, these centrally located fountains must have served a significant role in meeting the homeowner's representational needs and enhancing the atmosphere and comfort of the house. Especially considering the hot climate

80 Zeyrek 2002, 72-94, 100-110.

81 Uytterhoeven – Martens 2008, 287-288; Uytterhoeven et al. 2013, 373-407; Uytterhoeven et al. 2014, 222.

82 Şimşek 2013, 307-319.

83 Also see Ellis 1997, 38-50; Uytterhoeven – Ricci 2022, 3-10.

conditions in the Mediterranean region, the refreshing and cooling sensation of the water flowing from fountains during scorching summer heat has transformed courtyards with such fountains into indispensable spaces for homeowners and guests. Moreover, the convenience of knowing that water is always there and available added to the comfort of the residents, making their homes even more liveable. Furthermore, the impression created by water, integrated with decorative elements visually and acoustically, must have provided a sense of spiritual refreshment to people. Therefore, the places where fountains were found should be considered the liveliest and most vibrant spots in these elite residences of the Late Antique Era. As can be understood from the examples discussed, in addition to decorative fountains, courtyards also featured water reservoirs, wells, and cisterns used for the basic water needs of the house, and many of them included channels and wastewater systems, which clearly highlights that these courtyards adorned with decorative fountains played a central role not only in the representational needs of the homeowner but also in everyday household activities.

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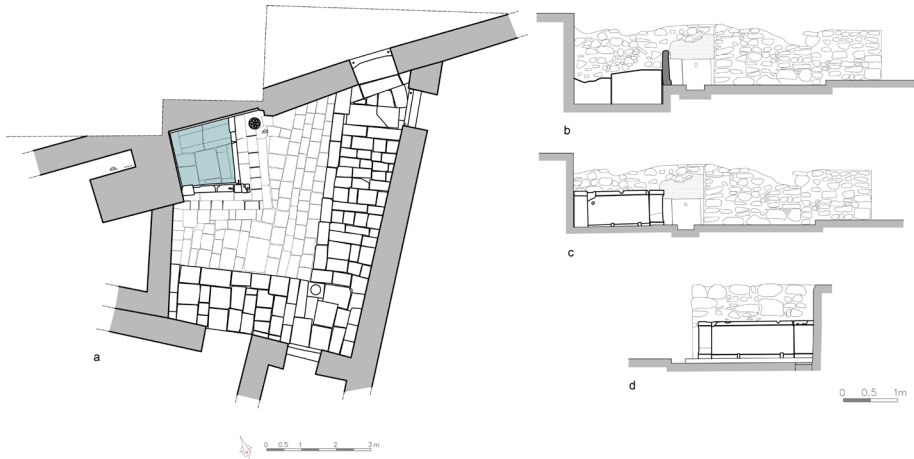


Fig. 1 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Twelve Room House in Sardis - a) plan; b) E-W section; c) north view; d) westview (Uzun 2022, Fig. 56)

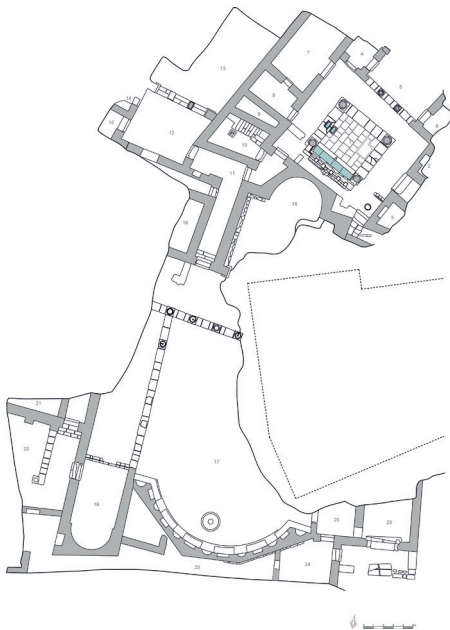


Fig. 2 The Atrium House in Aphrodisias - Plan and them Location of the Fountain (processed from Lockey 2010, Pl.1)

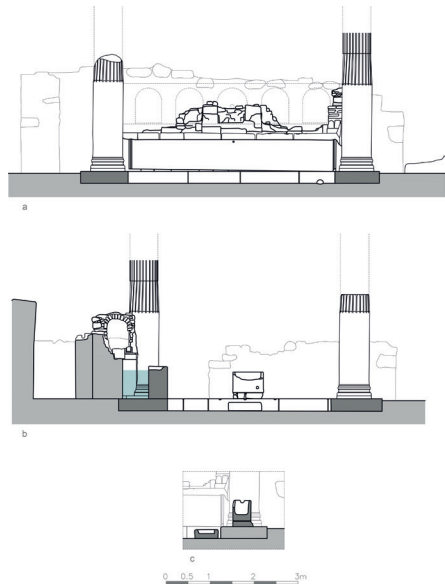


Fig. 3 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Atrium House a) south view; b) N-S section; c) basin section (Uzun 2022, Fig. 74)



Fig. 4 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Atrium House - Southwest View (Aphrodisias Excavation Archive)

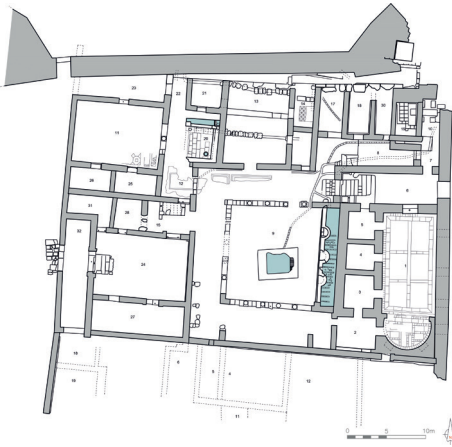


Fig. 5 Northeast House on the Lycian Acropolis in Xanthus - Plan and the Location of the Fountains (processed from Maniere-Leveque 2007, Fig. 1)

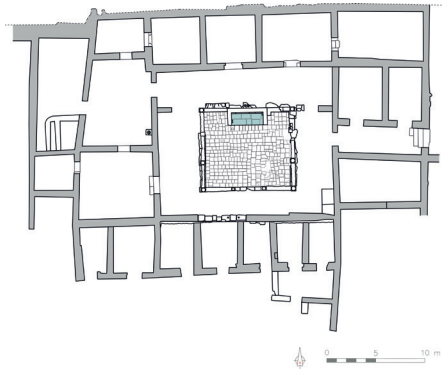


Fig. 6 Peristyle House/Pierios House in Arycanda – Plan and the Location of the Fountain (processed from Sancaktar 2016, Pl. 1)

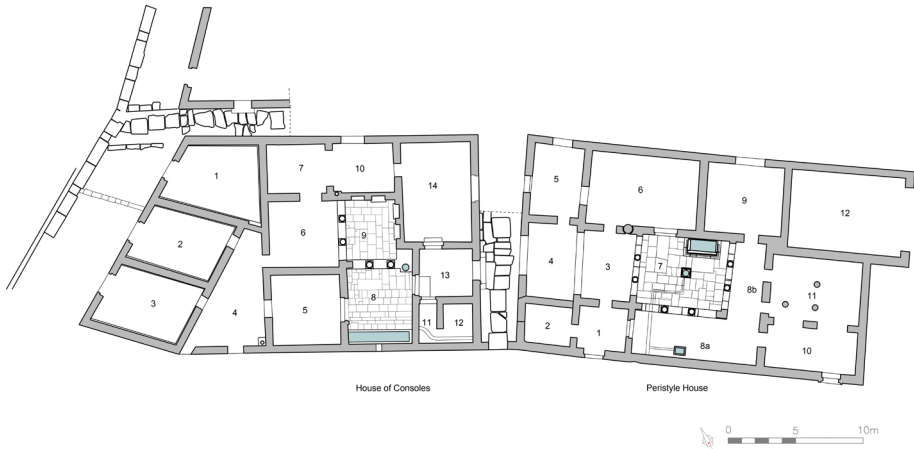


Fig. 7 The Peristyle House and House of Consoles in Side – Plan and the Location of the Fountains (processed from Mansel 1978, Fig. 262)

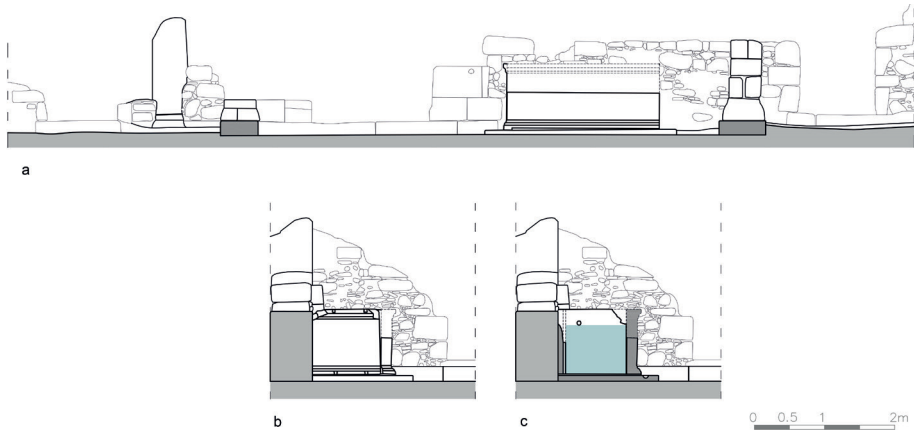


Fig. 8 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Peristyle House in Side a) north view; b) east view: c) N-S section (Uzun 2022, Fig. 110)



Fig. 9 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Peristyle House in Side - Northwest View

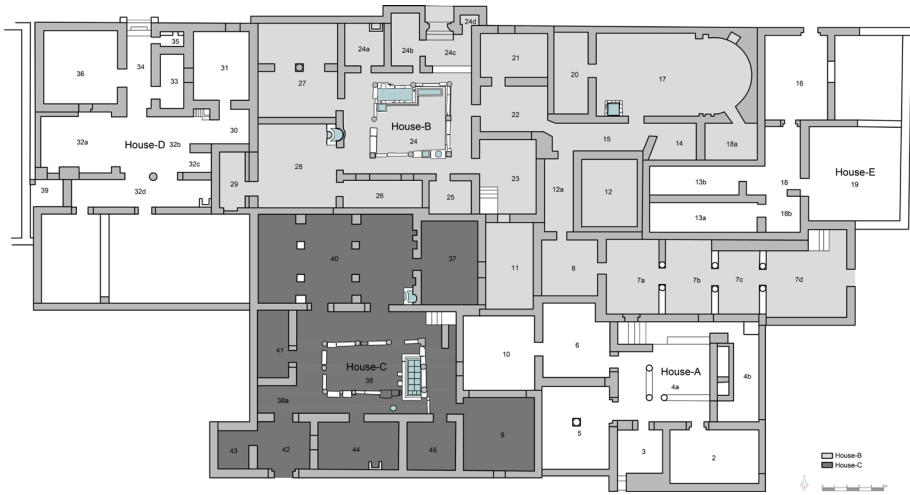


Fig. 10 Late Antique Residences (Houses B and C) in Perge - Plan and the Location of the Fountains (processed from Zeyrek 2002, Lev. 21)

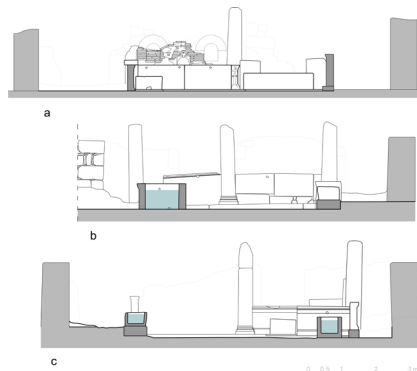


Fig. 11 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Late Antique Residence (Houses B) in Perge a) north view; b) N-S section; c) west view (Uzun 2022, Fig. 92)



Fig. 12 The Fountain in the Peristyle Courtyard of the Late Antique Residence (Houses B) in Perge - North View



Fig. 13 Sagalassos Urban Mansion - Plan and the Location of the Fountain (processed from Uytterhoeven et al. 2014, Abb. 3)

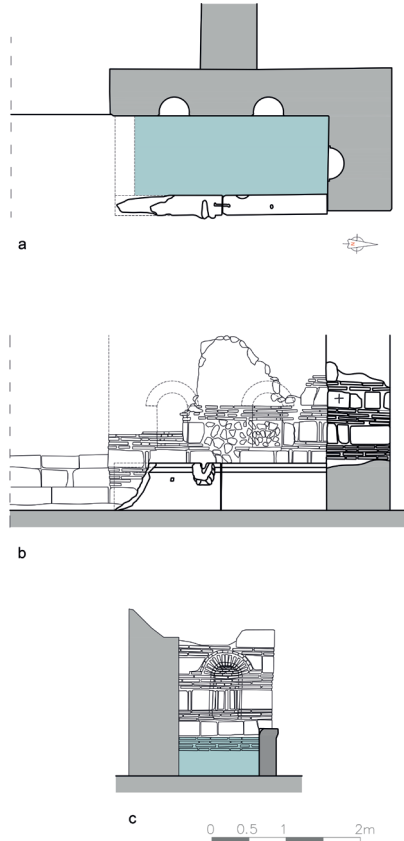


Fig. 14 The Fountain in the Courtyard of Urban Mansion a) plan; b) west view; c) E-W section (Uzun 2022, Fig. 117)

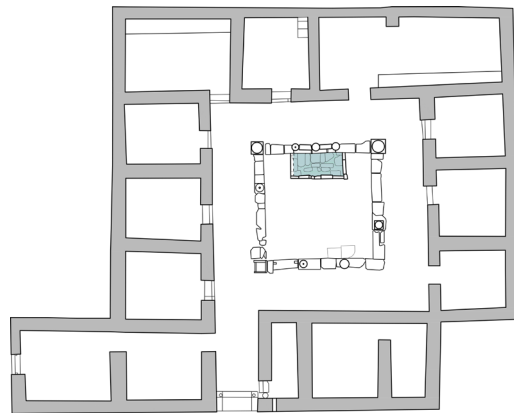


Fig. 15 House No. 1 in Insula A, Laodicea – Plan and the Location of the Fountain (processed from Şimşek 2013, Fig. 424)